

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a design list for a network of servers, the design list comprising
functions of the network, amount of hardware for the network, type of
hardware for the network and number of WAN IP addresses assigned to the
network;

generating selecting a first network design from among a plurality of network
designs for the network having two or more network components based
upon a design rule and the design list, wherein a first network design of the
plurality of network designs is selected, and wherein the design rule
determines a first server in the network is first in receiving all incoming
data packets to the network;

configuring software and hardware network settings, including IP address, links,
and ports, for a second first server in the network, the software and hardware
settings including switches, jumpers, IP address, links, ports and values of
software parameters, the configuration of the network software and
hardware settings based upon the design rule and the first network design;

building a digital image with the network software and hardware settings for the
first second server; and

deploying the digital image onto the first second server.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises a server farm, wherein the network handles variable workloads, and wherein all functions of the network continue to operate in the event the second server of the network fails.

3. - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital image is dynamically built.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

deploying the dynamically built digital image over a network connection in response to a netboot request from the first server.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

rebuilding the digital image for the first server in the network; and
redeploying the digital image for the first server.

10. – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving a design list for a network of servers, the design list comprising functions of the network, amount of hardware for the network, type of hardware for the network, and number of WAN IP addresses assigned to the network;

means for ~~selecting-generating~~ a first network design from a plurality of network designs for ~~a-the~~ network ~~having two or more network components~~

based upon a design rule and the design list, wherein a first network design of the plurality of network designs is selected, and wherein the design rule determines a first server in the network is first in receiving all incoming data packets to the network;

means for configuring ~~network~~ software and hardware settings, including IP addresses, links and ports, for a ~~second~~ first server in the network , the software and hardware settings including switches, jumpers, IP addresses, links, ports and values of software parameters, the configuration of the ~~network~~ software and hardware settings based upon the design rule and the first network design;

means for building a digital image with the ~~network~~ software and hardware settings for the ~~first~~ second server; and

means for deploying the digital image onto the ~~first~~ second server.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, ~~further comprising: wherein the number of WAN IP addresses is fewer than number of the servers in the network means for generating the network design.~~

23. – 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

graphic user interface having a function to receive a design list for a network of servers, the design list comprising functions of the network, amount of

hardware for the network, type of hardware for the network, and number of
WAN IP addresses assigned to the network;

design rule logic having design instructions, wherein the design instructions
determine a first server in the network is first to receive all incoming data
packets to the network;

network topology logic having a function to generate a plurality of network
designs for ~~a~~the network ~~having two or more network components~~
according to the design list ~~requirements~~ and the design instructions,
wherein a first design of the plurality of network designs is selected through
the graphic user interface;

~~graphic user interface having a function to select a first network design from the~~
~~plurality of network designs;~~

configuration logic to configure ~~network~~ software and hardware settings;
~~including IP addresses, links and ports, for a first~~ second server in the
network, the software and hardware settings including switches, jumpers, IP
address, links, ports and values of software parameters, the configuration of
the ~~network~~ software and hardware settings based upon the design
instructions and the first network design;

digital image building logic to build a digital image with the ~~network~~ software
and hardware settings for the ~~first~~ second server; and

deployment logic to deploy the digital image onto the ~~first~~ second server.

26. - 27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the graphic user interface having a further function to generate the network topology for the network.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising:

a database to store one or more digital images of a server, one or more network topologies, and network configurations.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the number of WAN IP addresses being fewer than number of servers in the network and wherein configuring network settings comprising sending a request to a Domain Name System server.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the design rule instructing how a ~~component~~ server in a network can or cannot be employed in the network.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the configuring means including a Domain Name System server and a network translation software, the network translation software to route data packets to and from a virtual IP address of the network.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the design rule logic having further instructions to determine how a ~~component~~ server in the network can or cannot be employed in the network.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the configuration logic further comprising a Domain Name System server and a network translation software, the

network translation software to route data packets to and from a virtual IP address of the network.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the configuration logic installing network translation software on a third server in the network ~~component of the network~~, wherein the network translation software routing data packets to and from a virtual IP address of the network.

36. (Canceled)